GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:467
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2005
SPECIAL DEVELOPMENT PACKAGE FOR AMRITSAR
Sidhu Shri Navjot Singh

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India has received representation / suggestion regarding grant of special package for the development of Amritsar District of Punjab;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (c): Government of India has not received any representation / suggestion regarding grant of special package for development of Amritsar district of Punjab.

1. Prime Minister had made announcements regarding a package for Amritsar in his visit to the city in September, 2004. Details of the announcement are annexed.

2. Since then Government has been receiving requests for expediting implementation of announcements already made.

Annexure refered to in reply to parts (a) to (c) of Lok Sabha unstarred Question No. 467 regarding Special Development package for Amritsar by Shri Navjot Singh Sidhu, due for answer on 27.7.2005.

___

Sr. No.	Announcement	Action taken
1.	Steps will be taken for securing UNESCO status for the Golden Temple.	Siromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee (SGPC) have written that they are withdrawing the UNESCO folder. Ministry of Culture has deferred the action plan until a fresh consensus emerges.
2.	Government of India will give financial help of Rs. 70 crore for completing Galiara Project around Shri Harmandir Sahib to protect it from pollution.	Ministry of Home Affairs has sanctioned Rs. 72 crore for completing phase IV and V of Galiara Project around Shri Harmandir Sahib. Ministry of Finance, Government of India has released the first installment amounting to Rs 13.75 crore vide an order dated 31.3.2005. Works such as construction of VVIP parking and development of area around newly constructed toilet block have been completed. Construction of cement concrete road and shoe room near Ghantaghar is in progress.
3.	Government of India will extend all possible help to set up a Centre of	Ministry of Human Resource Development has conveyed approval to

Research on Shri Guru Granth Sahib Studies for which President of India has laid a foundation stone in the Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar.	the scheme and released Rs. 1.00 crore during 2004-05. A Meeting of the Governing Body of the `National Institute of Studies in Guru Granth Sahib` has been held on 2nd July,2005 to resolve the remaining issues. Steps have been initiated to make the Institute functional in a month`s time.
4.Government of India will examine the project report of Punjab Govt. on Guru Ramdas Slum Development Project of Amritsar and provide necessary financial assistance.	Detailed Project Report with estimated cost of Rs. 255 crore submitted to Ministry of Urban Development (MUD) is being modified to make the project feasible. In anticipation, the MUD has forwarded the project to the Deptt. of Economic Affairs for seeking JBIC funding.
5. A Special Economic Zone (SEZ) will be set up at Amritsar to create additional employment opportunities around the city. Government of India will extend necessary help to Punjab Govt.	Ministry of Commerce has decided to grant in principle approval for sector specific SEZ and advised Punjab Govt. to notify SEZ. Punjab Govt. is finalizing the notification
6.Regarding certain articles that were removed from the Golden Temple Complex in 1984 during Operation Blue Star, efforts will be made to restore these to Shri Harmandir Sahib or SGPC.	Central Bureau of Investigation, Ministry of Home Affairs has registered a preliminary enquiry to locate the missing books / manuscripts. Government of Punjab has provided the list of such documents for further action by CBI. .
7.For completing the Khalsa Heritage Project at Anandpur Sahib, Government of India will provide necessary financial assistance. Ministry of Culture, Government of India has released Rs. 2.00 crore during 2004-05.	The implementation schedule and other related issues for the project are being finalized by the Executive Committee of the Khalsa Heritage Complex Foundation.
8.Issue of opening a corridor to visit the historical Gurudwara in Kartarpur in Pakistan will be emphatically raised during the next round of talks with Government of Pakistan.	Chief Minister, Punjab has requested in June,2005 the Union Minister for External Affairs to ensure an early decision in the matter.
9.Institution of Guru Granth Sahib International Award for Inter faith understanding and harmony.	Government of Punjab would be pursuing the matter with the Prime Minister.
10.Establishment of Guru Ramdas National Institute of Bio-technology.	Chief Minister, Punjab has written to the Prime Minister in June, 2005 with a request to advise the Ministry of Human Resource Development to grant in-principle approval to establish the Institute.